

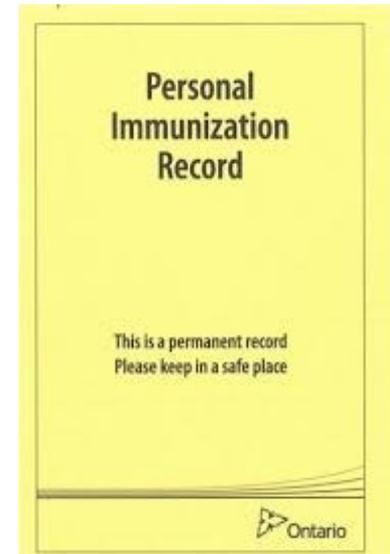
IMMUNIZATION OF SCHOOL PUPILS ACT
(ISPA)
BOH19029

September 16, 2019

- 1) Overview of Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA)
- 2) Screening and Suspension Process
- 3) Supporting the process
- 4) Compliance
- 5) Moving forward and recommendations

Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA) Overview

- Ontario law requiring certain vaccines to be given for a child to attend school
- To protect school aged children from vaccine preventable diseases
- Parents and guardians are responsible for reporting vaccines



ISPA Overview- Compliance

- Child receives designated vaccines in accordance with the Publicly Funded Immunization Schedule
- Exemption (medical and non-medical)



ISPA Overview- Medical and Non-Medical Exemptions

Medical

- unable to receive vaccine for a medical reason
- exemption form must be completed by health care provider and include: exempted vaccines, length of exemption and reason for exemption

Non-Medical

- completed for conscientious or religious reasons
- education session is mandatory
- “statement of conscience or religious belief” form must be notarized

ISPA Overview - Vaccine Record Reporting

- Parents/guardians are responsible for reporting vaccines to public health
- Reporting options include: phone, fax, drop-in or online
 - Phone and fax most frequent

Promoting and orienting parents and guardians

- Web page
- Phone line
- Community presentations
- Promotional materials to kindergarten registration sessions
- Screening only process – summer – for K1/JK students



Reporting Vaccines

Home > Public Health > Health Topics > Reporting Vaccines

Why report vaccines to Public Health?

Parents are responsible for notifying Public Health each time their daycare or school-aged child receives a vaccine. In the event of an outbreak, Public Health needs to have the vaccine information for all daycare and school-aged children in order to protect the community from vaccine preventable diseases.

How to report vaccines

Avoid risk of school suspension - report your child's vaccines in one of the following ways:

■ **Online**

■ **By phone:** 905-540-5250

■ **By fax:** 905-546-4841

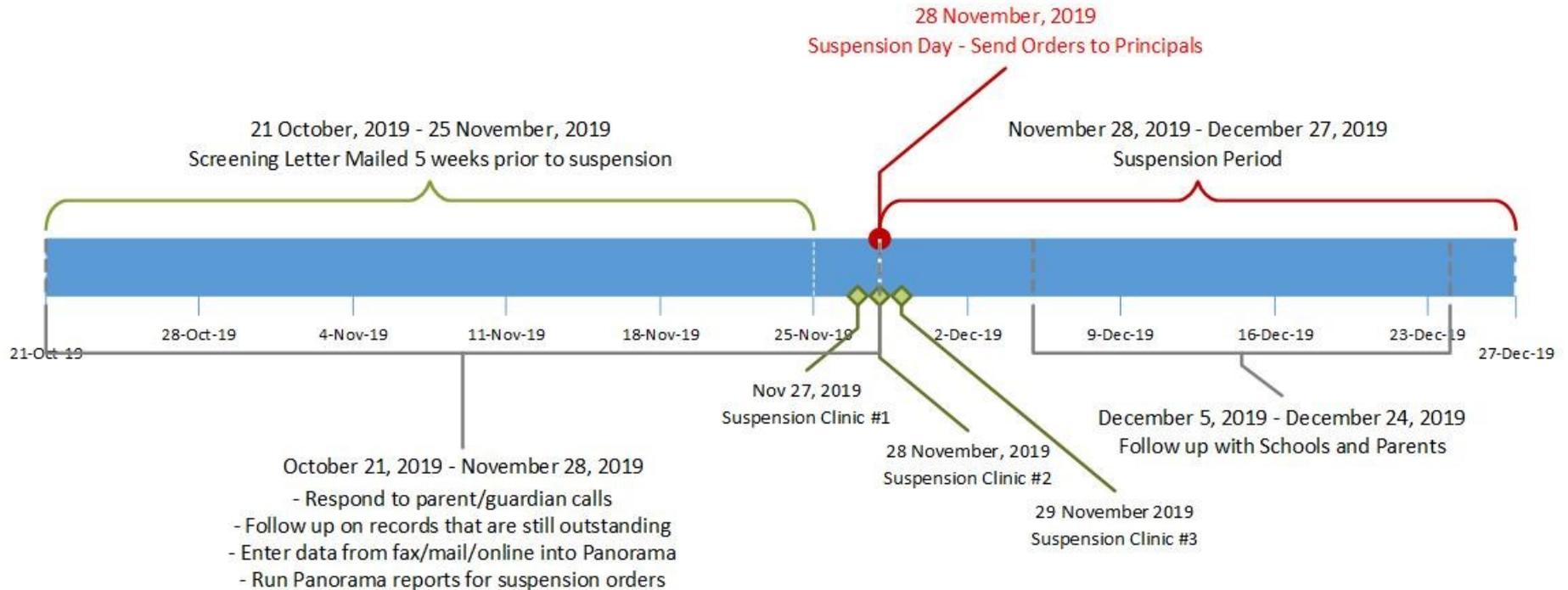
■ **By mail:**

Vaccine Program
P.O. Box 897
Hamilton, ON L8N 3P6

Screening and Suspension Process

- November-May of each school year
- Schools divided into waves
- 2018-2019 – kindergarten 2 to grade 11
- 2019-2020- kindergarten 1&2 to grade 11
- All school boards included (Public, Catholic, French & Private)

Immunization School Pupils Act (ISPA) – Public Health Timeline



To «Skip Record If...» «First_Name» «Last_Name» • Recta Birth Date: «Date_of_Birth»
 Or parent/legal guardian if less than 16 years of age School: «School_Daycare»
 «Street_Address»
 «City», ON «Postal_Code»
For Office Use Only
Client ID:

By law, Public Health Units need a complete vaccine record or an exemption for diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, poliomyelitis, measles, mumps, rubella and meningococcal diseases.

Our record for «First_Name» «Last_Name» is shown on the back of this letter and is missing vaccines for the following diseases: «DiseasesAgents».

1. Please let us know if your child's / your information at the top of the letter needs to be updated.
2. Check your records and report any missing vaccines and dates.
 - See the back of this letter for the vaccine record on file with Public Health
 - Record the missing vaccines and dates on the back of this letter and return it using the enclosed envelope
 - Call 905.540.5250
 - Fax 905.546.4841

Note: Doctors do not give us vaccine records.

If the missing vaccine information is not provided by [DAY, MMM DD, YYYY], «First_Name» «Last_Name» may be suspended from school.

3. If needed, get the missing vaccines and then report them to public health (not the school).
 Note: Complete a legal form if there is a medical reason a vaccine cannot be given or you have strong beliefs against getting vaccines. The legal forms are posted under Vaccines and the Law at www.hamilton.ca/vaccines.

Vaccine Record for «First_Name» «Last_Name» on File with Public Health

DATE GIVEN	At Age	Diphtheria	Tetanus	Pertussis	Polio	Measles	Mumps	Rubella	Varicella	Meningococcal Disease	Vaccine

Write the missing vaccines and dates below or attach a copy of the record.

Vaccine Given	Date Given			Doctor / Clinic Name and Phone Number
	YYYY	MM	DD	

Collection and Use of Personal Health Information

The information collected on this form is being collected in accordance with section 36(1), subsection h of the Personal Health Information Protection Act, 2004 and section 12(2) of the Immunization of School Pupils Act, 1990.

If you have questions about the collection of your information, contact:

Vaccine Program Representative
 Hamilton Public Health Services
 110 King Street West 2nd Floor
 Hamilton ON L8P 4S6
 905-540-5250

Visit www.hamilton.ca/phsprivacy to learn more.

The information will be used for the purposes of keeping your vaccine records up to date, meeting Immunization of School Pupils Act legislation, and the collection of statistics.

Efforts to support ISPA process

Information to school boards

- ISPA process
- Annual screening and suspension plan
- Important dates (screening letter & suspension day)

Clinical support

- Suspension clinics- day before, day of and day after
- Secondary school clinics
- Community clinics

Follow-up with schools and parents

- 1 week following suspension day to provide support, addresses barriers to accessing vaccines and/or reporting vaccines to public health





Immunization Compliance For School Pupils

City of Hamilton Profile



Hamilton

In order to prevent diseases from spreading in our community, a certain percentage of people must be immunized (known as "herd immunity").

Ontario's Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA) directs public health units to maintain a record of immunization for each pupil attending school in their jurisdiction. Compliance with ISPA is shown below at Age 7 and 17 years which are key milestones in the immunization schedule.

Overall 2018/2019 School Year in Hamilton

5,810

7 year-old students eligible
for ISPA vaccines

6,309

17 year-old students eligible
for ISPA vaccines

92.9%

Percent of 7 year-old students
fully compliant with ISPA

92.1%

Percent of 17 year-old students
fully compliant with ISPA

Data notes: This is an assessment of student compliance with the Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA). Students are considered compliant if they have reported proof of immunization or a valid exemption. Exemptions for immunizations ranged between 2.6-3.4%. Data source: Panorama. 2018-2019 [Extracted Jul 2019]; 2015-2016 [Extracted May-Aug 2016].



Immunization Compliance For School Pupils

City of Hamilton Profile



Compliance (%) by Antigen

School Year:	7 year-old students		17 year-old students	
	2018-19	2015-16	2018-19	2015-16
Measles	95.7%	97.6%	98.7%	97.1%
Mumps	95.7%	97.6%	98.5%	97.0%
Rubella	98.5%	98.7%	99.8%	97.5%
Diphtheria	94.8%	95.8%	93.4%	78.9%
Tetanus	95.3%	95.8%	93.3%	78.9%
Pertussis	94.8%	95.8%	93.1%	77.7%
Polio	95.6%	95.9%	98.3%	96.8%
Meningococcal	98.1%	95.8%	99.4%	93.6%

Data notes: This is an assessment of student compliance with the Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA). Students are considered compliant if they have reported proof of immunization or a valid exemption. Exemptions for immunizations ranged between 2.6-3.4%. Data source: Panorama. 2018-2019 [Extracted Jul 2019]; 2015-2016 [Extracted May-Aug 2016].

Challenges with current environment

- Resource intensive
- Lack of a provincial immunization registry to seamlessly transfer immunization info from primary care to public health
- Lack of awareness that parents must report vaccines to public health
- Lack of a process to verify vaccine info received from parents/guardians

Moving Forward

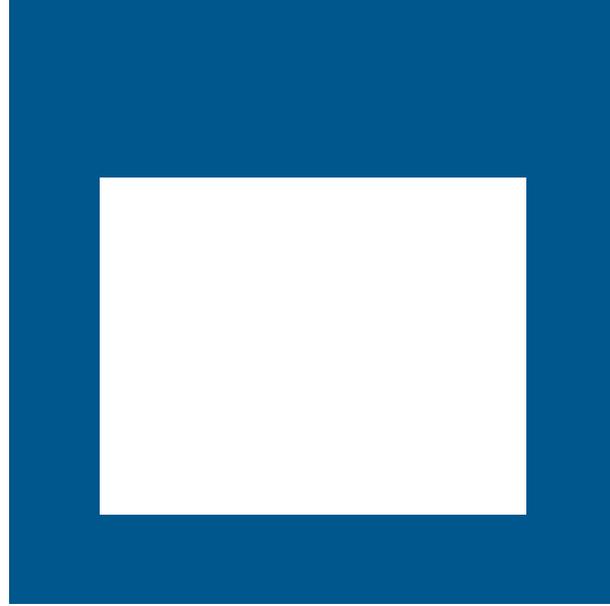
- Outreach to local healthcare providers to promote adherence to the publicly funded vaccine schedule
- Use of local data to identify schools/students that require more targeted interventions
- Enhance parental notification of upcoming suspension using automated messaging
- CANImmunize



Recommendation

It is recommended that:

1. The Board of Health endorse a seamless immunization registry whereby health care providers directly input immunization information at the time of vaccine administration.
2. The BOH circulate this report to the Minister of Health, the Chief Medical Officer of Health, City of Hamilton MPP's, the Association of Local Public Health Agencies, the Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health and the other 34 Ontario Boards of Health.



QUESTIONS?